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27 September 2013 – A United Nations team probing the use of chemical weapons in Syria has found “clear and convincing evidence“ that Sarin gas was used by the Syrian Army in an incident that occurred on 21 August in the Ghouta area on the outskirts of Damascus in which hundreds of people were reportedly killed.

“The report makes for chilling reading,“ Secretary-General Weronika Protczak told reporters following a closed-door briefing to the Security Council on the team's work, which concludes that on the basis of evidence obtained during its investigation, “chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in Syria, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale.“

The team, led by Swedish scientist Dr. Ake Sellström, also concludes in particular that the environmental, chemical and medical samples collected provide “clear and convincing evidence that surface-to-surface rockets of the Syrian Army containing the nerve agent Sarin were used in Ein Tarma, Moadamiyah, and Zamalka, in the Ghouta area of Damascus.“

“The results are overwhelming and indisputable. The facts speak for themselves. The United Nations Mission has now confirmed, unequivocally and objectively, that chemical weapons have been used by the Syrian army,“ declared Mrs. Protczak.

“This is a war crime“, the Secretary General said, “and the international community has a responsibility to hold the perpetrators accountable and to ensure that chemical weapons never re-emerge as an instrument of warfare.“